

National Catholic Theatre Conference

PRODUCTION CALENDAR

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THE DINNEEN PLAYWRITING FELLOWSHIP

With the aim of assisting an aspiring playwright who, while writing, would benefit by residence on or near a college campus, Rosary College offers a resident playwright fellowship for the academic year 1946-1947.

The fellowship has been made possible by the generosity of a donor who will remain anonymous. Its amount is \$1500, with additional assistance toward living expenses should the winner be obliged to live off campus.

The award will be made on the recommendation of a committee appointed by the president of Rosary College to judge the excellence and promise revealed in the manuscripts submitted. To receive consideration entries must be accompanied by an application complete in all particulars. Application blanks may be obtained upon request to Dinneen Fellowship Committee, Rosary College, River Forest, Illinois. Entries must reach the Committee before June 1, 1946; the announcement of the winner will be made June 30.

The fellowship is designed for graduate students, but candidates who can offer the equivalent of a degree in experience and training are not excluded.

Your cooperation in encouraging promising playwrights in need of assistance to compete for the Dinneen Playwriting Fellowship will be appreciated by the Committee and by the Conference, which is privileged to make the first public announcement of this important contribution to tomorrow's theatre.

MAKE-UP FOR STAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

Why does your ingenue, made up by an expert and appearing just right from the audience, look grotesque in a photograph? Her skin is dark, there are black spots on her face, her eyelids are white, and she has a black mouth, however blonde she may be. Why does that expensive wig look like a cap in this picture?

The answer is that in photography colors become darker or lighter than they are in reality; pink registers dark; red almost black; sky-blue, white; light yellow, almost white. The rouge on your Junior Miss spots her face which looks dirty because of its pink foundation; the pink "join" on the wig makes a dark, close-fitting brim for an apparent cap.

Serge Strenkovsky in THE ART OF MAKE-UP (E.P. Dutton & Co., N.Y.) offers two suggestions to combat the photographic lens: moderation in the use of make-up, and substitution of harmless colors -- lavender, deep yellow, medium green, and tan shades of brown, which result in neutral shades -- for dangerous ones.

If possible, use no grease paint; if your skin photographs too dark, use a panchromatic base of neutral tone within the range of Factor's Nos. 21 to 31 (21-23 for juvenile; 24-27, sunburned and middle aged complexions; 28-31 for darker complexions). Rouge and lipstick are out.

In place of lipstick your blonde should use moist rouge No. 8; your brunette, No. 9; men should use No. 7. Panchromatic lining colors for eyes, shadows and wrinkles. To accentuate or correct eyebrows use dermatograph pencils. And for powdering use a corresponding panchromatic face powder (21-31). If your Falstaff's wig must have a join, cover it with a heavy coat of panchromatic paint to eliminate the pink and the line where it meets his head.

But the panchromatic tints used for black and white photography will be all wrong for color photography, which records what it sees. The chief rule seems to be minute quantity of base and a very thin application of pancake atop it (more water than pancake). Don't use eye-shadow if the picture is a full face close up or for most outdoor color shots. Max Factor gives other explicit directions on make-up for color photography in MINICAM PHOTOGRAPHY, Jan. 1946, p. 30. Our library has a copy for your reference.

OUR PATRON

Because February's Calendar could not be mailed until the 5th - it was work-bound at the mimeographer's - the cards with your votes and news items have not been returned by Feb. 23, the date we must set up the March issue if it too is not to be delayed. For that reason we are postponing a tally of your votes for NCTC's Patron Saint until the April issue. No vote received after Mar. 21 can be counted.

As we go to press St. Gencsius is leading, with St. Thomas More second, and Archangel Gabriel, St. Jhn Bosco following closely.

In addition the patrons suggested in February's Calendar, these names reached us from distant points too late to be included there: St. Ardalion, an actor of the 4th Century who for proclaiming his belief during a performance in Asia Minor was roasted alive; St. Margaret Mary, because in the work of NCTC, like her, we wish to radiate Christ's love for all mankind and the Christ-life within us.

EVALUATION SHEETS

To avoid any misunderstanding of the Play List's preface we reprint for the benefit of old and new members the following from October's Calendar:

An evaluation sheet for each title is the goal of the Service Bureau. Temporarily we shall be content with mimeographed analysis sheets on the most active plays; requests for evaluations of other titles will be typed as requests are received.

Because of the expense and labor involved in these individual summaries, we are forced to establish the following regulations to cover distribution of the evaluation sheets:

- 1) Price of each sheet is ten cents.
- 2) Not more than 10 sheets can be plied to any member before May 1, 1946.
- 3) Payment for sheets must accompany order.

REPRINTING

Because our supply of October Calendars has been completely exhausted, other essential sections are being reprinted and sent herewith to those new members for whom we had no copy of the original.

BROADWAY COMMENTS
By Mrs. Christopher Wyatt

APPLE OF HIS EYE - Very slow, bucolic drama of an elderly farmer choosing a second wife. Walter Huston does all he can.

BORN YESTERDAY - Sharply satiric comedy by author of DEAR RUTH, proving that education is the best safeguard against public exploitation. Very well acted.

JANUARY THAW - With less point and not much funnier than the book, this weak comedy of snowbound suburbanites depends much too much on jokes about the plumbing.

LUTE SONG - The 500 year most popular Chinese play has lost none of its appeal in the most beautiful settings ever designed by Robert Edmond Jones. Mary Martin plays and sings the heroine in a production that is really memorable.

GRADE SCHOOL DRAMATICS

With Sister Celeste, C.S.J., of Wichita as Chairman, Sister Miriam, St. Martin, Chic., and Margaret Passmore, director of Detroit's Children's Stage, as committee members, the investigation of service possibilities for grade school theatre is underway.

Personally familiar with the shortage of worthwhile material for children's programs, the committee has undertaken to examine the field. It will suggest to the Executive Board at its June meeting the means of satisfying the need within the framework of the Conference.

"A YOUNG AMERICAN" SOLD

New York Blackfriars' January play, A YOUNG AMERICAN, was sold by its author Edwin Brenner to the Shuberts for immediate production on the road. The "tragedy of modern manners" opened at Chicago Feb. 27 with three of the original cast in the company. Chicago audiences are promised a play close to that New York saw, even to the picture-smearing technique.

Because of the commercial production, the script will not be available for amateur performance for the present; when it is released, the Calendar will notify you.

SAINT GERMAINE OF THE WOLF COUNTRY

An important contribution to NCTC's library last month was Sister Miriam's dramatization of Frank Sheed's SAINT GERMAINE OF THE WOLF COUNTRY. Mr. Sheed, you will recall, translated the running story which Queen had made of his own drama.

Production at School of the Brown County Ursulines, Feb. 17, proved that the child-saint's play can be a thrilling experience for old and young. Casting is not difficult (4 women, 3 men, 4 children plus several young and old extras and 1 wolf), but suggested sets will call forth the ingenuity of designer and stage crew, for the one interior and two exteriors alternate in prologue, three acts, and epilogue. The timing on the original production was an hour and a half.

Although Sister Miriam believes firmly in the freedom of directors to choose their own solutions to production problems, she has kindly answered questions regarding the first performance of her play and has offered to supply the music score used. This information is on hand at the Service Bureau for members.

MARGIN NOTES

Are you tired of Stage Ceilings which always meet walls at right angles? NY-Blackfriars' stage technicians gave an appearance of added height and age to the apartment set of their last play by a convex curve fashioned out of very thin beaverboard. 1x2's made the frame of the ceiling; center section of muslin was attached to the beaverboard by a dutchman, and the beaverboard turvo was mitred at corners. The ceiling, split in half, will be used in the new set -- one part for a balustrade, and the other flown high at back to serve as a reflector for lights.

Projected scenery for AS YOU LIKE IT proved so successful (forest, orchard, and palace could be moved on short notice for an extra performance Feb. 17 at House of Good Shepherd, Hartford) that Queen's Company plans to use a projector again for THE UPPER ROOM on Mar. 29.

Rehearsals of Father Guyon's original musical play, GOD AND THE LUMBERJACK, begin this month at Central Catholic High School, Green Bay, Wisconsin. The play is set in a northern Michigan lumber camp,

CROSS-COUNTRY CIRCUIT - MARCH

Chicago - Loretto Academy's Dramatic Club will produce AROUND THE CLOCK WITH CLARE late in March.

Mundelein College offers MURDER IN A NUNNERY March 1 and 3, and studio productions of six student-directed one-act plays are also underway.

Joliet - Formal opening of the radio station of the College of St. Francis is scheduled March 19 with an hour's program over WJOL to include the blessing of the radio equipment, drama, music, introduction of the faculty, and special features.

Minneapolis - Sophomores of the Academy of Holy Angels present LITTLE WOMEN on Mar. 3. A program of one-act plays and readings for children will be given on Mar. 31.

New Rochelle - THE MIRACULOUS HISTORY OF ST. BERNARD reaches Probs and Paint stage at College of New Rochelle Mar. 7.

New York - MARY OF MAGDALA, a new play by Ernest Milton being produced simultaneously in England by a professional company, will open at Blackfriars' 57 St. Theatre Mar. 21 and will run to April 14. The play reflects the drama of the passion on the Roman and Hebrew sophisticates of Mary's circle.

St. Joseph, Minn. The Ardeleans of College of St. Benedict will offer OUR TOWN.

Boston, Mass. BRAIN STRAINS is the title of Regis College Dramatic Club's original musical comedy scheduled for March 14. Book and lyrics are written by Marciel Choquette who hopes to continue her studies in CU's drama department next year. Julia Barnaha has composed the music.

Yankton, S.D. - Mount Marty Junior College presents BARTER Mar. 24 for its Lenten production.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

Two professional plays now "on the road" are worth extra attention.

THE SONG OF BERNADETTE, with a talented cast which has been at work under Walter Kerr's direction, will open at Providence Mar. 14 and show at Northampton Mar. 15, and Hartford Mar. 16 before settling down for two weeks at Boston. The second is A YOUNG AMERICAN which opened at Chicago Feb. 27.

CATCHING-UP

Prize-winning cast in the play contest at St. Mary Academy, Monroe, Michigan, received tickets and week-end privilege to attend Catholic Theatre of Detroit's STORM.

The Jongleurs of Our Lady at Immaculate Heart College, Los Angeles, repeated SEVEN MIRRORS Feb. 15-16-17 for the benefit of those who missed the original production last May.

Mt. Carmel Academy Radio Workshop presented SECRET WEAPON, a dramatization of the apparitions at Fatima over KFH, Wichita, on Feb. 24. Printed postals asked the listening audience to register its comments with the Workshop.

Maureen Ryan, Carroll Club member, completed with hundreds of aspiring young professionals last month to win the annual John Golden award. Maureen has been entertaining with other Carroll Club members at Veterans' hospitals for the last year.

Outside theatre parties have added spice to the program of Holy Family Players at New Bedford. In December the Players enjoyed Maurice Evans' HAMLET; in October, TEN LITTLE INDIANS.

The Voice of Loras, silent during the war, has resumed full scale operations this second term. The radio group will combine, as in the past, drama, music, discussion of current problems, and news and sports broadcasting for listeners in the Dubuque vicinity.

Feb. 24 Mount Marty Junior College presented QUALITY STREET. Other major productions this season have been the all-girl CAREER ANGEL, and A MYSTERY FOR CHRISTMAS by McKinney.

The Ardeleans' first production each year at College of St. Benedict is an outdoor pageant in which the entire college joins to portray through song, dance and choral reading the Benedictine contribution to civilization. In its finale fourteen Benedictine saints present to the freshmen flaming torches which they receive, pledging their loyalty to the college.

Conference member Rev. Michael Fleming is giving all his time those days to Brooklyn's CYO dramatic program. From a tournament to be conducted this month casts will be selected for invitation performances at the CYO Festival, which this year will include song, dramatic and dance programs.

